VI. Account of a BOOK.

The Antiquities of Palmyra *alias* Tadmor; *Built by King* Solomon *in the Deſart of* Arabia: *Containing the Hiſtory of that City and its Emperors, From its Foundation to this preſent time.* By *Ab. Seller.* 8°.

THE *Royal Society*, having Publiſht Two Journals of the *Engliſh* Merchants to *Tadmur*, in the Deſart, the Author of the *Palmyrene* Antiquities undertook to give the Hiſtory of that City, from its Foundation to this preſent Age.

The Preface Accounts for the Rites and Cuſtoms of the Eaſt, which are ſtill continued by the *Arabs*, who are very tenacious of Antient Uſages, of which the Author gives ſeveral Inſtances; particularly of the Mourning for *Thammur* or *Adonis*.

The Hiſtory proves, that the City was Founded (or as others, Rebuilt) by *Solomon* a Frontier to his large Territories; that it was probably taken by the Kings of *Syria* from the *Jews*, when their Kingdom was divided and impaired, till the Kings of *Babylon* ſeized it; (the Hiſtorian of *Antioch* averring, that the victorious Monarch *Nebuchadnezzar* Conquered it, before he formed the Siege of *Jeruſalem*) that upon the Ruine of the *Perſian* Empire, it ſubmitted to the irreſiſtible *Alexander*; that it was (probably) Repaired and Beautified by *Seleucus*, one of his Succeſſors, in gratitude to whom, they uſed the common Computation of moſt of the Eaſtern Cities, the *Æra Seleucidarum* that *Pompey*, when he made *Syria* a Province, reduc'd *Tadmur*, Conſtituting it

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an Appendage to that Province (tho' *Malela* ſays expreſly, that *Aurelian* firſt made it a *Roman* Province) that *M. Antony* deſigned to Pillage the City, to gratify his diſcontented Army, after his ill Succeſs in *Perſia*, but was diſappointed; from which time, to the Reign of *Trajan*, Hiſtory is Silent concerning the City, and ſo are all the Inſcriptions found there, none of which is older then that Emperor (Two of the Sepulchral Inſcriptions being Erected in his time) *Adrian* Viſited, Rebuilt, and Called it by his own Name. *Antoninus Caracallus* made it a Colony *Juris Italici*, and it continued firm to the *Roman* Intereſts under the Succeeding Emperors, aſſiſting *Alexander Severus*, and the youngeſt *Gordian*, in their Expedition againſt the *Perſians*, with their Forces; and when the Emperor *Valerian* was Conquered and made a Priſoner, *Odenathus* the Governor of *Palmyra* aſſerted the Rights of injured Majeſty, baffled the *Perſians*, and was declared by *Gallienus* his Co-partner in the Empire, which Authority continued in his Family for ten years or more, under *Aurelian* the City was Ruined, after which it made a poor Figure in Story, till *Juſtinian* Repaired and Fortified it, in which Condition it continued, till the *Mahometans* made themſelves Maſters of that Country (*Al Iham*, the laſt King of *Geſſan*, being at that time Lord of *Tadmur*) and ſuffered the Fortifications to moulder into Duſt, ſince which time it hath been a Neſt of *Arabian Banditi*.

That the City was well Situated for Trade, the *Caravans* of the Eaſtern Merchants paſſing through it, the neerneſs of the *Euphrates*, on which Navigable River the *Palmyrenians* were in Poſſeſſion of Three Cities, giving it great Advantages of Riches, beſides their own Native Commodities.

That it was probably Converted ſoon after Chriſtianity was Planted, that it was Erected into a Biſhops See before

before the Council of *Nice*, and continued ſo in the time of the *Chalcedon* Council, under the Arch-Biſhop of *Damaſcus*; but ſoon after, when *Libaneſia* was made a diſtinct Province, and *Emeſa* Conſtituted the Metropolis of it, it became a Suffragan to that Metropolitan (not the Arch-Biſhop of *Edeſſa*, as the Notitia ſet out by *Goar* wrongly calls the City) as was alſo *Damaſcus*.

In the Appendix the Author proves, that the Names of the Inhabitants were purely *Syrian*, with a *Prenomen* often prefixt, for the moſt part *Roman*; that their Officers were ſuch, as the other Cities of the Eaſt lived under, and that the oldeſt Superſtition was that of the Worſhip of the Hoſt of Heaven; to which is ſubjoined the Life of *Nabal-Lachus*, the Grandſon of *Odenathus*, and of the Excellent Critick *Longinus*, together with a Commentary on the Inſcriptions, wherein ſome parts of the *Roman* Hiſtory, before unknown, are Diſcovered, and ſome Rites of the Oriental Idolatry accounted for, particularly that of conſulting the Fountain of *Aphaca* in great Repute, in thoſe early times, for its Oracles.

ERRATA.

TRanſact. *Numb.* 222. *Page* 300. *Line* 2. *after the word* Current, *inſert theſe words*, [going there conſtantly Eaſt, and] *which words, by miſtake, were put into the Fourth Line, after the word* Bahama, *where they ought to be left out.* *p.* 304, *&* 305. *for* Pollipus *r.* Polypus.

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